

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN



COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

Number: 24 (206)

1 January 1978

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### THE REACTIONARY-FASCIST COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DEFEATED – OUR PEOPLE DEMAND A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

The reactionary-fascist coalition government was defeated on the 31st of December. 228 MPs voted against the government in a vote of no confidence. On the 1st of January, President Korutürk called on the leader of the Republican People's Party, Ecevit, to form a new government.

The process of the coalition governments collapse was accelerated by the resignations from the Justice Party which took place after the December 10th elections. Even the ruling circles and a great number of bourgeois newspapers began to attack the government. They wanted it to go. It was with this aim

that around 20 "distinguished businessmen", the ringleaders of the collaborating bourgeoisie, held a secret meeting in the Sheraton Hotel in Istanbul in the second half of December. Selçuk Yaşar, Vehbi Koç, Feyyaz Berker and other monopolists and bosses who attended the meeting said that they had been tardy in their activities to get rid of the coalition government. They complained about the crisis and demanded a Justice Party-Republican People's Party (AP-CHP) coalition. The president of the Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen (TUSAD) Advisory Council, Koç, summarised the demands of the collaborating bourgeoisie in 14 points. He tried to blame the working class for the crisis and attacked the workers' movements and collective bargaining. Koç went on to demand the adoption of new collective bargaining legislation that would favour the employers.

The attitude of the Republican People's Party (RPP) leadership which is drifting further and further towards the right allows the collaborating bourgeoisie to put forward its demands more openly. On 22-23 December, the RPP leader held a secret meeting in the Güneş Hotel in Florya, Istanbul, with the MPs who had resigned from the Justice Party (JP). Declaring "We want a strong government," the former JP deputies expressed their desire to see the RPP and the JP come together. They began to negotiate between themselves.

The progressive forces, first and foremost the working class, the masses of working people, and also the left wing of the RPP, oppose this kind of bargaining which favours the demands of the collaborating bourgeoisie. Because they know that such a government will not be able to solve the urgent problems of the people. For this reason, the people demand a government that will end the brutal attacks, the drive towards fascism, and, in particular, the fascist occupation of government bodies, a government that will defend national interests and carry out radical democratic reforms in the interests of the people. The possibilities for bringing such a government to power exist.

The Communist Party of Turkey has waged a consistent struggle to overthrow the reactionary-fascist coalition government and has striven for the unity of action and unity in a front of all progressive forces. The TKP will support all positive steps in this direction and will persist in its struggle for a government on the side of the people.

## **THE WORKING CLASS IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS CLASS TRADE UNIONISM**

The 6th Congress of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions, DİSK, was held on the 22nd-28th of December. It was attended by many local and foreign guests.

In his opening speech, Kemal Türkler, the out-going President of DİSK, emphasized that, "Unity, Struggle, Solidarity" will always be the most important slogan for DİSK. The Report on Activities dwelt mainly on the class nature and direction of DİSK's struggle over the past 2.5 years.

At the Congress, important resolutions concerning the developing and strengthening of the working class movement were adopted. First and

foremost among these was the resolution to preserve and strengthen the unity of DİSK. All the speeches delivered at the Congress devoted great attention to preserving the unity of DİSK. Among the important resolutions passed was that which undertook to strengthen solidarity with, and support in every possible manner, the seven-months long metal workers' strike against the MESS bosses (MESS is the Association of Employers in the Metal Industry.) This resolution was passed unanimously. Such a development is concrete evidence of the growing strength of class solidarity on a national scale. A resolution conferring on the DİSK executive the duty to realise the anti-fascist organisations and movements. Such a development will strengthen revolutionary unity of action.

All these are concrete indications of the determination of DİSK workers to preserve class trade unionism and to consolidate the revolutionary unity of the working class. The resolutions of the DİSK Congress prove that the attempts by reactionary-fascist forces and rightist-reformist circles to divide DİSK or to draw it into a policy of class collaborationism have failed.

The internationalist solidarity of the working class of Turkey was shown very clearly once more at the DİSK Congress. In their speeches at the Congress, the representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and delegations of trade union organisations from both socialist and capitalist countries declared that they stand side by side with the working class of Turkey in the battle against imperialism and reaction, for peace, democracy and national liberation. They declared once more that they will continue their actions of support and solidarity in the future. This is an immense gain for the working class of Turkey. Our working class will strengthen and develop this revolutionary gain.

On the last day of the Congress, the new leading and executive organs of DİSK were elected. Abdullah Baştürk, President of Genel-İş (General Workers' Union), was elected President and Fehmi Işıklar, General Secretary of DİSK.

## SOLIDARITY WITH THE METAL WORKERS' STRIKE

Solidarity with the heroic metal workers who are fighting for their democratic rights and raising the banner of class trade unionism against the MESS bosses is continuing on a national and international scale.

The wives of the striking workers and members of the Association of Progressive Women (İKD), organised a press conference to urge all democratic forces and those workers, peasants, intellectuals, youth, officers and non-commissioned officers who want to defend the interests of the working people, to show solidarity with Maden-İş (the Metal Workers' Union). The working people of the village of Demirciler in the Gebze township of İzmit sent donations collected among themselves to the Metal Workers' Solidarity Committee. The peasants of the village declared that they will not allow the bosses to starve out thousands of courageous Maden-İş workers. Peasants, craftsmen, and many organisations of teachers, intellectuals and civil servants in neighbouring townships and provinces are participating in the campaign of solidarity with the metal workers.

Our workers and students living in the countries of Western Europe are also taking an active part in the solidarity campaign. Maden-İş solidarity committees in Düsseldorf, Hanover, Essen, Bremen and other cities in Federal Germany, as well as Committees in Sweden, Britain and West Berlin, are organising solidarity actions.

## A GENERAL VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY AND THE WORLD IN 1977

In the year 1977, the balance of forces shifted further in favour of peace, democracy and socialism. We must emphasise this fact when evaluating the past year.

1977 saw the 60th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution – the Revolution which determined the course of world development, was realised in the light of the principles of Marxism-Leninism, in the fire of revolution, and which opened a new epoch in the history of mankind. All progressive mankind, all peace-loving forces, and all those fighting against imperialism, fascism and racism, for peace, democracy, national independence and socialism enthusiastically and en masse celebrated the 60th anniversary of this glorious revolution. They raised the flag of liberation of the Great October Socialist Revolution high once more. New forces, new generations are marching confidently on the path illuminated by the torch of revolution lit by Red October.

In 1977, the growing strength of the world socialist system which is one of the three main forces of the world revolutionary process and which was established with the many-sided aid and support of the Soviet Union created by this great revolution came to the forefront in every sphere. With the great successes achieved in the economic sphere, the socialist countries further raised the standard of living of the working people. Millions of working people in the socialist countries received new homes in 1977. New schools, hospitals, kindergartens and creches were built. At the same time, prices of basic necessities remained stable and the provision of free health services and education is continuing.

In contrast to this harmonious and planned development of the socialist system, in 1977, the crises of the world capitalist system deepened and the process of the collapse of imperialism advanced further. Unemployment, the high cost of living and inflation reached terrible dimensions. According to official figures, there are 20 million unemployed in the developed capitalist countries today. In the countries within the capitalist world's sphere of influence, 650 million people are starving. In short, in 1977, none of the formulas advanced by the ruling circles in the capitalist countries brought any solution to the problems. On the contrary, the foundations of the capitalist system began to shake more violently.

1977 was a year of intense activity of the peace-loving forces headed by the socialist countries. In contrast to the consistent peace policy of the

socialist countries, the imperialist circles intensified their attempts to sabotage world peace. This year the imperialist countries, the ruling NATO circles increased their arms expenditures. They threatened mankind with new weapons of mass destruction and opposed the peace proposals of the socialist countries. Using the cry of "human rights", they intensified ideological attacks against the socialist countries. In 1977 the Maoists, supporting this policy of imperialism and enmeshed with the enemies of communism, joined the front of forces promoting war and tension.

The struggle of the working class in the capitalist countries against the capitalist system and the exploitation and oppression of the monopolies reached new dimensions. In the first 11 months of 1977, more than 50 million working people in the capitalist countries were involved in strikes and various forms of protest.

In 1977, world public opinion witnessed a hitherto unprecedented acceleration of the development of national and social liberation movements in various countries of Africa. In some countries the process of moving towards socialism and forming Marxist-Leninist parties of the working class began. The peoples of Mozambique, Angola, Ethiopia and Guinea-Bissau embarked on the road of new development. With the support and aid of the socialist countries and the international working class movement, Marxist-Leninist parties were formed in Angola and Mozambique. Activities to this end are continuing in Ethiopia. In South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, the national liberation struggle against the racist regimes gained strength from these developments and reached new levels.

The events and developments in Turkey in the past year show that our country was affected by these world developments. The Turkey of 1977 was a country in which the struggle between old and new, progress and reaction, the working class and the bourgeoisie, our people and American imperialism, accelerated and sharpened. In the political sphere, the reactionary fascist coalition government in the economic-social sphere, the disastrous policies of this government symbolised that which is dying and in decay.

1977 was a year in which economic, political and social crises further deepened. Inflation, the cost of living and price increases reached unprecedented levels. Foreign currency reserves were exhausted in a way that opened the door to a complete halt in production. The foreign trade deficit reached 4.5 billion dollars in the first ten months of 1977. Turkey's debts to the imperialist countries went beyond the 13 billion dollar mark. The price of a kilo of meat rose to 100 lira. Price increases ranging from 50-60% were introduced on basic consumer goods. According to the OECD, in 1977, Turkey was one of the countries where the cost of living is highest in the world.

The collaborating bourgeoisie and the reactionary-fascist government saw the solution to the situation they themselves had created in the tightening of dependence on imperialism and its economic, military, financial, and political organisations. The ringleaders of the second Nationalist Front coalition government concluded open deals with the IMF authorities. On the demand of this organisation, the Turkish currency was devalued by

10%. New enslaving agreements were signed. In addition to this, and to suit the plans of imperialist aggression, NATO expenditures were raised again. The government began an intense armaments drive. The people were burdened with new military expenditures.

In the political sphere, 1977 was a year in which the rise of fascism accelerated. Murders, ransackings and commando attacks followed one after the other. 230 political murders were committed in one year. State bodies were filled up with fascists. Security of life completely disappeared. The danger of fascism seriously increased.

Such a policy sharpened the internal contradictions of the bourgeoisie and the ruling circles. The results of the two elections held in 1977 confirmed this development. In the 5th of June general elections our people said "No" to the reactionary-fascist forces. These same forces were routed once again in the December 10th local elections. The reactionary fascist government lost the support of the bourgeoisie as well. Following the December 30th vote of confidence, it was forced to resign.

In 1977, the struggle of the progressive, patriotic forces led by the working class against the anti-popular policy and fascist escalation, for peace, advanced democracy, national independence and socialism gained in strength. In 1977 our country was the scene of mass actions. 1 May, the day of unity, solidarity and struggle of the workers of the world, was celebrated in a rare manner. The banners that were carried and the speeches that were made stressed that no passage will be given to fascism. Masses of people expressed the demand that the TKP, the political organisation of the working class of Turkey, be accorded the possibility to work in legal conditions. In 1977 the working class took new steps towards strengthening its unity on the battle-field. The worker-peasant alliance came onto the agenda in practice.